Kezia Purick
Deputy Opposition Leader
Media Release

28th September 2009

TERRITORY COMES LAST FOR FIRST HOME OWNERS

The Federal Minister for Housing Tanya Plibersek has released figures confirming the Henderson Government's failed land release policies have driven first home buyers out of the market.

Commonwealth figures show the Northern Territory has the lowest take up of the Federal Government's First Home Owners Boost.

Out of the 153,449 recipients of the First Home Owners Boost since October 2008, just 1,147 were in the Northern Territory.

To put that figure into perspective the Australian Capital Territory had 2,400 first home owners accessing the Federal grants in the same period. So despite the ACT having a population just 50% higher than the NT, it had 100% more first home owners taking up the grants.

With 1% of the national population the Territory should be receiving 1% of the grants, which would have seen around 1530 successful applicants.

“The Henderson Government’s snails pace release of land is a significant factor in why nearly 400 first home owners have not accessed these Federal grants,” says Kezia Purick, Deputy Opposition Leader.

“The lack of land for residential development, the huge rents and the high cost of established homes is a trifecta of failure for first homebuyers.

“Getting people into the housing market is critical with the Territory having such a high population turnover.

“Yet at each turn the Henderson Government has failed Territorians on the issue of housing.”
“The number of new homes being built is desperately short of what is needed to meet demand. In the past 12 months just 1000 dwellings have been started when the Territory needs at least 1700.

“Labor’s sale of thousands of public houses has forced many vulnerable families into living in tents and cars.

“The Henderson Government’s bungled implementation of the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program will cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars and has delayed desperately needed housing in the bush.”

Further comment: Kezia Purick 0407 035 976